

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election and preempt regular programming is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. A local college in California recently refused to allow Michael Moore to speak on campus, after contracting with him to do so, because they decided there wasn't time to present an opposing viewpoint. This situation is no different, and completely unconscionable.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.